

The Times - Dispatch

Business Office: Times-Dispatch Building,
10 South Tenth Street
Richmond, Va.
South Richmond: 1525 Hull Street
Petersburg Bureau: 108 N. Sycamore Street
Lynchburg Bureau: 115 Eighth Street

BY MAIL One Six Three One
FIFTY CENTS PAID Year Mo. Mo. Mo.
Daily with Sunday \$5.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00
Daily without Sunday \$4.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00
Sunday edition only \$2.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00
Weekly (Wednesday) \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—
One Week
Daily with Sunday 10 cents
Daily without Sunday 10 cents
Sunday only 6 cents

Entered January 27, 1906, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1912.

WHAT MAKES A BUILDING INSPECTOR?

The Administrative Board faces a grave choice in its selection of a Building Inspector. The office is of great importance to Richmond, because in many ways the life and safety of the people depend upon the technical skill, energy and honesty of the incumbent. His field covers that large and exacting one of protecting the homes of the citizens. He must see that these homes are built right and that they are maintained in a safe condition. Therefore, this office holds human life in its hands. What kind of a man does the Administrative Board expect to choose to discharge this heavy responsibility of protecting the lives of men and women? The caliber of the Board and what Richmond can expect from its actions will be sharply defined by its attitude toward this very first appointment. The members are absolutely free. They have presumably no political debts to pay. They owe the voters who put them in power the solemn return of appointing an efficient inspector.

Certainly the five men who promised so much to Richmond this summer would not appoint a man ignorant in the branches of mechanics and engineering, upon which safety depends. They would seek for a man trained in the technical aspects of construction and one of experience. They would make knowledge the first standard. In this light, The Times-Dispatch believes that Mr. Marcellus Wright is better fitted for the place than the other applicants, who, as far as has yet been shown, are not fitted for the place at all. Mr. Wright has been endorsed by the Richmond Architects' Club. This surely cannot be held against him. These men are to work with the new Building Inspector, and ought to know what qualities make a good official. It is a principle in Virginia for the lawyers to recommend judges. Why not architects, a building judge? The recommendation of experts should count more than any other.

It is argued that Mr. Wright is unsuited because he was chosen and trained for the place by the present Inspector, Mr. Beck. Is not training and experience what municipalities want? Is it not the growing custom in Europe and America to demand municipal servants who have been trained in regular schools? Would it not be rather silly and small of the Board to refuse a man because the previous successful holder of the office says he is undoubtedly the best man? It certainly would, unless the Board had a better man to offer.

The Board may well ponder the kind of Building Inspector they cannot appoint. They would never think of intrusting the safety of women and children to a drunkard. They would not intrust the protection of large property interests to the tender mercies of ward politics. They would not select an inexperienced contractor for a technical position. They need need no other interests save the large interests of Richmond. If the Board does not choose to appoint Mr. Wright, which refusal is undoubtedly its prerogative, it will be asked to demonstrate that it has appointed a better man.

COMING DOWN TO A SIMPLER.

In a very comprehensive article, which is little if any less than conclusive of the whole question, the London Spectator of recent date, in arguing that Austria-Hungary would not afford, and would not dare to precipitate, a general European conflict, gave these among other reasons for its confidence that the dual realm, instead of merely thinking about Russia, which would have been its sole preoccupation in case of war under the old conditions, would have to face the possibility of an army of 10,000,000 men attempting to invade it at its weakest point—i. e., in its Slavonic provinces—provinces in which it would take little to light the blaze of insurrection, that if Austria-Hungary were warring a war that would be represented and not infinitely represented, as designed to crush out a purely Slavonic nation, the Slavonic Slav would be the preponderant force could not but be profoundly moved.

The logic of this position is compelling, and comes with an air of authority, by the assertion of one of the Hungarian delegates to the peace convention, that Austria-Hungary, military activity, of which the Slavonic have made so much, was really inspired by fear of internal disturbance. That is to say, her mobilization had, and has, for its object, putting the government in position to strangle the discontented Slav in the Austro-Hungarian provinces that formerly constituted parts of the old Serbian and Montenegrin empires, thus assuring against uprisings in these in sympathy with the allied movement, which looks virtually to the recreation of a

great Slav empire in the Balkan peninsula.

And the views and the arguments of both the Spectator and the Hungarian delegate are buttressed by the fact that since Austria-Hungary has put herself on "a war footing," not only has the rattling of her sabre grown fainter and fainter, but there has been a decided moderation in the offensiveness of her attitude towards Serbia. The exaggerated stories of Serbian treatment of, and insults to, Austro-Hungarian consuls and other officials of the dual monarchy, and appeals to the "pride of the nation" having served their purpose of giving the government full hand, and securing for it indorsement in spending millions in military preparations, Austria-Hungary, as common sense, reason and the question of the future integrity of her patchwork dominions dictated would be the case, is gradually, wisely and gracefully cooling down.

It is scarcely going too far to predict that when she is finally brought to book, in the efforts of the other powers to prevent an international struggle, her erstwhile boiling threats will hardly amount to a simmer. The fires of her purpose to coerce Serbia at the risk of plunging Europe into a writer of blood, and of her own disreputation, will be found to have died out.

A PROPHECY WITH HONOR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

Not often is it that a prophet lives to behold his vision vindicated. It is his fate almost uniformly to receive the scorn of the multitude, its stoning and its scourging, until he dies before time can verify his foretelling. He strives to lead the people by interpreting the shadows of future events too often he finds that he travels alone with no believers flocking in his train, and so he perishes.

The fulfillment of the prophetic leadership of William Jennings Bryan is a remarkable exception to the experience of the world. In less than a generation "the stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." Thrice he has gone down to personal defeat, and yet most of the distinctive principles for which he contended have been vindicated by popular ratification. He has lived not only to see his policies indorsed by the Democratic party, but bodily appropriated by the Republican party. Some of the issues which he alone and single-handed put forward now form a part of the working creed of the whole people of the nation.

Consider the case of the Initiative and the referendum, which, according to Mr. Bryan in his lecture here last night, will not abolish representatives, but will enable the voters to control the representatives into obeying the popular will. At the polls last month three-fourths of the national electorate cast their ballots for candidates who advocated the initiative and referendum, for the advocacy of which the Nebraska was once flooded with scorn and ridicule. Consider the national income tax. In 1906, Mr. Bryan, through the Democratic platform, criticized the decision of the Federal Supreme Court, declaring a national income tax invalid. For that attitude he was widely assailed and yet the income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution lacks the vote of but two States to become a part of the fundamental law of the land. Similar vindication has resulted in the case of a number of other issues of equal or less degree. Where once Mr. Bryan stood in solitude, now the parties and the people establish their position.

Now has the Great Commoner ceased from prophecy. He told the people of Richmond last night that the day would come when every State in the Union would adopt the initiative and the referendum. Recent results indicate that the tendency is decidedly that way. The danger in these two methods of popular rule lies not so much in their use as in their abuse. If they could always be used as a corrective for the things that legislators do that they ought not to do, and for the things that they leave undone that they ought to do, the process would be simple and safe, but the menace to constitutional government is in bringing about too much hasty action and ill-considered popular legislation. Is not popular rule secured when the people control the government without rendering it necessary for them to conduct their government by universal suffrage? The initiative and the referendum may be universally adopted, but the experimental stage has not been passed, and will not be for years to come.

For those who listened to him here last night as for those who read the lecture for which he has fought, there is a common conclusion. In his time Mr. Bryan has been and is the original progressive. He has matched far, would match, and will match, the people might come up with him to show the way in which they must work and in which they must live. He has been a pathfinder of the people's life.

my effected, because separate sites for these buildings would not have to be bought by the city. The necessity for such a park is beyond doubt. Not to secure this property now would be an expensive mistake upon the part of the municipality, for the opportunity will not be repeated. The location is good. The common is open and spacious. It could easily be made into a splendid park which would relieve the congestion in the older parks, and promote the health and happiness of generations of the citizens of Richmond.

Do the people desire this park? It can be secured for approximately \$50,000. It is worth that much as mere dirt. If the people wish it to be acquired for their greater welfare and joy, let them speak now or forever hereafter hold their peace about the need for more parks.

OLD NAMES FOR NEW.

Here's a go. The despised immigrants are stealing blue-blooded New England's aristocratic names for short and handy tags wherewith to replace their own parents' mistakes. The sacred syllables of Lowell and Channing and Cabot and Lodge and Haughton and Edwards and Hadley and Archibald are being affixed to mere "wops." Once those stout English monikers meant blue blood of such remote origin that it might reasonably have become blue from homesickness. Like the Arabian's "Open Sesame!" the mere murmur of these enchanted sounds let you into the Harvard Hasty Pudding Club, the Unitarian Church and Back Bay society. But now, woe is woe, there are Lithuanian Cabot-Lodges and Hungarian Lowells. The unholly immigrants, who have no more vital connection with the true New England stock than to run the mills from which said stock gets its income, have naturalized themselves by choosing the most English names they can find.

No wonder the Puritan Sons are peevish. They have spent an awful lot of time and money trying to prove that the passenger list of the Mayflower and the 1912 census returns for New England were not the same documents. Lo and behold, here pop up a lot of yellowish folks with the holy insignia who only came over in the steerage of the Mauretania. What glory is it to be a real Haughton if the banana man around the corner is a Haughton too? Why snig with pride from a real Edwards nose when another clan of Edwardses who can't even talk English, much less Bostonese, are glutting the market with a new Edwards nose as snubby as the old one is beaky? It's a time for indignations. The barbarians must be stopped from such blasphemy.

The New Englanders have not yet decided what to do. They might take Indian names, since they named most of their towns and scenery from names they stole from the Indians. They might take the long and mispronounceable names that the immigrants are dropping. At any rate, they are in a bad box. They are perpetual immigrants. Look at those names and you can see they immigrated to England along with Norman William. Then they immigrated over here, and have been proud of the trip ever since. Now let them flip a coin with the wops to see which set of immigrants will immigrate again.

A DESIRABLE CHANGE.

By a recent bill introduced in Congress it has been planned to prevent a number of small practices in the House and Senate by which many members, both in former years and at the present time, have supplemented their regular salaries. Chief among these deplorable conditions has been the rule for Congressmen to draw \$1500 per annum for their secretaries. Many thrifty and not over-sensitive Senators and Representatives have employed stenographers or typewriters at a remuneration much below this statutory allowance, and have pocketed the difference. Some have personally attended to their own correspondence, and have added the grant for a secretary to their own remuneration. In other cases, sons or daughters have been designated as secretaries, and have been permitted to draw the income without rendering any services in return. There have been Congressmen who have been known to have returned home at the expiration of their terms without having expended any part of their regular salary because they had been able to live while in Washington on their allowances for stationery and for salaries of secretaries. It is now proposed to have the disbursing officers of the House and Senate pay the secretaries direct, instead of having the funds come to them through their employers. The change is highly desirable and has the earnest support of the large number of Congressmen whose standards of private and public conduct will not permit them to exploit the economic weaknesses of stenographers and clerks or to receive public money which was not intended for their own use.

What chair would they put Theodore Roosevelt in if they put all expenditures in the faculty? Military tactics or mnemonics? That street car that ran into a drug store must have been trying to do its Christmas shopping early, too. The ads say that "the most satisfactory solution of the Christmas question is 'Books.' Check?" To what poor child are you going to play Santa Claus?

At present Mr. Wilson's Cabinet is much like the one used by magicians. You put some one in it and Mr. Wilson says a few words and there is no use in it.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

In 1900, "I-I-I-I-I have come, my dear madam, I-I-I-I-I have come to ask for your e-e-e-consent. I would like to marry your beautiful son, Edwin."

"Young woman, do you think you can support my son in the manner to which he has become accustomed? Or do you want my son, just because I am a rich woman?"

"I think I can s-s-s-support him."

"Remember, he is somewhat frail, and can do no heavy housework, and the pin money I allow him now amounts to \$25 a week. It would be a hardship for him to be deprived of any of the luxuries he now enjoys at home."

"I have considered all of that."

"He has an automobile and driver for his own use when he goes out to make his afternoon calls on his young gentlemen friends. He is temperamental and takes no interest in the running of a house. He cannot cook and he spends a great deal of time dawdling over fancy work and china painting."

"I know of all that, but I still love him, and I will cherish him and protect him."

"His clothing is a great item of expense. His hats alone cost me a small fortune."

"I know."

"You know men are flighty and often suffer from nerves. They are right called the weaker sex, and are becoming more and more of a problem."

"I realize that, but I have already bought the ring for Edwin. All we need is your consent."

"What are your prospects?"

"I am in the hide and tallow business with my mother, and we have prospered. Father and the boys spend a great deal of time in Europe and all of their summers at the seashore. Mother expects to be able to spend more time with them in the future, as she will retire from business and leave me in charge of it. I will give him a fine town house and a summer chateau, a valet and an electric limousine."

"I am not particularly anxious to see my son marry into the hide and tallow business, but if he loves you, I suppose any objection on my part will be useless. Young men often get foolish notions in this regard nowadays. They are so romantic and unbusiness-like. Are you the rattle brained young woman who has been playing a mandolin under his window every night and sending him violets every morning?"

"I must confess that I am."

"Well, I suppose I might as well consider your proposal. But don't elope with him. If you do he will never set one cent of my money."

"I promise."

"Well, bring around your bank-books and I will look them over. Good day, I am very busy."

"Madam, you have made me the happiest woman in the world. Good morning."

THE MOST HOPELESS DERELICT

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright: 1912: By John T. McCutcheon.]

who wonders where his Christmas dinner is coming from—



—has seen the day when he didn't have to wonder.

no religion, so that you can never enter a church now without having seen your nose as a preliminary to religious ceremonies. If Christ and the apostles had demanded money for every parable and sermon they uttered, they would have stepped the life and truth out of them. "Give us \$20,000," say some, "and we will convert the world." Yes, verily they thus declare money makes religion. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

But if one comes, no matter how great his learning and consecration, and preaches without contribution or admission, accepting only what is given him by those who appreciate his work, he is not a missionary. He is a man of straw. There is little danger of that kind reaching people here or abroad. God's way is different. It must require a lot, indeed, of the "mighty" stuff to uphold to an awfully world 600 different beliefs when there is only one.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Assay for Gold.
Where may I get a few pieces of rock assayed for gold and at what cost?
There are excellent assay chemists here, but their charges would be higher than the charges of the United States Assay Office, where the rate is \$5.
W. M. F.

Oldest Multi-Millionaire.
Please tell me which of the American millionaire families is oldest.
There are great-grandchildren of the distinguished "founders" of the families of Vanderbilt, Astor and F. C. Havemeyer. The oldest of the rest go back to grandfathers or great-grandfathers.
W. M. F.

Chance in Poker.
Please state what is the chance is poker of getting a royal straight flush?
One in 649,740.
H. T. STITH.

O. K.
Kindly give me the derivation of the phrase "O. K."
All the books say that the letters were used by some person whose notion of spelling was so vague that he spelled them to be the initials of "all correct," which he inclined to spell "or korrek." One hand book, that of Edwards, London, 1901, states that the "word" was old Jacob Astor, the fur trader.
W. M. F.

The Alien Case.
How could the Court of Appeals reopen the Alien case for after-discovered evidence when the court has already refused a writ of error?
We fear our correspondent has committed some mistake in his note. The failure to grant a writ of error would appear to have no sort of connection with a reopening for adequate new evidence.
W. M. F.

The National State and City Bank
invites you to open an account either subject to check or at 3% interest in its Savings Department....
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,600,000.00
PUT THIS LABEL ON YOUR GOODS
Telephone MADISON 806 and ask CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Abe Martin

